

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

Regulation of America's media resources, in particular who controls the "public" airwaves, is of utmost importance to the idea of democracy which America is supposed to honour. Please do the right thing. Please do not dishonour a sincere desire for honest democracy by letting rich, undemocratic corporations and individuals control what information does and does not reach the American people. Please do not dishonour those that have died in order to defend democracy. Please do not sacrifice the rights of the people for the interests of the rich and powerful. Please do not let democracy crumble and do not let corporate interests replace the honest human values of the people. Information is the key to liberation, and the lack of diverse and truthful information caused by the propriety of corporate interests (money and power) will continue to trap America, and the world, in destructive ignorance of the truth. Please.

Signed, Ray Walsh